

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Effect of Pretreatment with Green Liquor, AQ and Polysulfide on the Performance of an Extended Batch System by WIZANI et al., hereinafter WIZANI, as evidenced by A combined discrete-continuous simulation model of an RDH tank farm by SEZGI et al., in view of WIPO Publication 99/1 4423 STIGSSON et al. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The assumption underlying the rejection is that WIZANI teaches adding fresh polysulfide to a warm fill in a RDH process. Submitted with this response is a declaration made by one of the application inventors. As explained at length in the declaration, WIZANI is wholly inoperative to provide a teaching to one of ordinary skill in the art regarding the addition of fresh polysulfide liquor to an RDH process. At best, WIZANI merely identifies what was previously known, as explained in the background portion of the application, that the use of polysulfide can be beneficial in a pulp process. WIZANI does not teach how to use fresh polysulfide in an RDH process, as Claimed in Applicants claims.

Accordingly, the section 103 rejection of the claims based on WIZANI should be withdrawn, and the claims allowed and passed to issue.

17 April 2009

Date: _____

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